

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-11 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 OPIC-03 ARA-06 /086 W

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P R 171608Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6036

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1027

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO, AO

SUBJECT: CONTINUED DIVISION ON ANGOLA RECOGNITION

REF: LISBON 1010 (DTG 161728Z FEB 76)

SUMMARY: REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL TOOK NO ACTION ON QUESTION

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OF GOP RECOGNITION OF MPLA IN FEB 14 MEETING. SECRETARY

OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MEANWHILE COMPLAINED OF PRESSURE FOR RECOGNITION BY LISBON "MPLA LOBBY." PRESSURE IS INDEED BUILDING AGAINST OPPONENTS OF RECOGNITION AS MPLA'S BATTLEFIELD AND DIPLOMATIC POSITIONS IMPROVE. END SUMMARY.

1. RC; NO DECISION ON RECOGNITION: AT BEHEST OF PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES, REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC) MET FOR NINE HOURS FEB 14 TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF GOP RECOGNITION OF ANGOLA (REFTEL). NO FINAL STATEMENT WAS RELEASED. MEANWHILE, PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES CALLED IN SOCIALIST SECGEN MARIO SOARES TO DISCUSS ANGOLA FEB 14 AND AGAIN FEB 16. FOLLOWING FEB 14 MEETING, SOARES REPEATED HIS CALL FOR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN INTERESTED PARTIES IN ANGOLA. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IS EXPECTED TO DISCUSS ANGOLA IN FEB 17 MEETING.

2. MEDEIROS FERREIRA ON ANGOLA: IN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED FEB 13, SOCIALIST SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MEDEIROS FERREIRA COMPLAINED OF EFFORTS OF LISBON "MPLA LOBBY" TO FORCE GOP RECOGNITION OF LUANDA REGIME. AT PRESENT, MEDEIROS FERREIRA SAID, MPLA COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED "DE FACTO" GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA, DESPITE ITS SUCCESSES ON THE BATTLEFIELD. "WE CANNOT, HE CONTENTED, RECOGNIZE THE MPLA AT A MOMENT OF MILITARY OFFENSIVE WHICH IS HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN INTERVENTION." MOREOVER, EVEN IF THE MPLA DID ATTAIN "DE FACTO" CONTROL OF ANGOLA, RECOGNITION WOULD HAVE TO FOLLOW BILATERAL TALKS BETWEEN LUANDA AND THE GOP.

3. COUTINHO TO LUANDA: LEFTIST SYMPATHIZING ADM ANTONIO ROSA COUTINHO, FORMER PORTUGUESE HIGH COMMISSIONER IN ANGOLA, DEPARTED LISBON FEB 17 FOR LUANDA WITH A GROUP OF PORTUGUESE IDENTIFIED WITH THE MPLA. IN DEPARTURE STATEMENTS, ROSA COUTINHO DECLARED THAT PURPOSE OF TRIP WAS "PRIVATE BUSINESS."

4. DEMONSTRATION THWARTED: RESPONDING TO ANONYMOUS SUMMONS TO PROTEST RUSSIAN AND CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA, GOP POSTED STRONG CONTINGENTS OF RIOT POLICE BEFORE EMBASSIES OF THESE COUNTRIES FEB 14. DEMONSTRATIONS, WHICH WERE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN CALLED BY ANGOLAN REFUGEE

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ORGANIZATIONS, DID NOT OCCUR.

5. INABILITY OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL TO REACH DECISION ON ANGOLA, AS WELL AS MEDEIROS FERREIRA COMMENTS, DEMONSTRATES DEPTH OF OPPOSITION WITHIN GOP TO IMMEDIATE RECOGNITION OF MPLA. PRESSURE ON ANTI-MPLA FACTION IS GROWING DAILY, HOWEVER, AS MPLA'S BATTLEFIELD AND DIPLOMATIC SUCCESSES MOUNT.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RECOGNITION, LIBERATION FRONTS, PARTY LEADERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976LISBON01027  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760059-0203  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 LISBON 1010  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 OCT 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 OCT 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <06 JAN 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CONTINUED DIVISION ON ANGOLA RECOGNITION  
**TAGS:** PINT, PFOR, PO, AO, MPLA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006